

Respiratory Protection for Radioactive Particulates

Respirator selection should always be based on measured exposure concentrations. N95 filtering facepiece respirators do not provide adequate protection against particulate radiation. High efficiency particulate filters are the only allowable type of particulate filters for air-purifying respirators.

The Assigned Protection Factor (APF) indicates the protection afforded by a class of respirators. APFs only apply when respirators are used within the context of a comprehensive respirator program, including fit testing. For example: A half mask elastomeric respirator has an assigned protection factor of 10, which means that it can be worn for protection up to ten times the exposure limit. The following table lists respirator categories and the protection levels that they provide.

Type of Respirator	Assigned Protection Factor
High efficiency (N, R, P 100) filtering facepiece ^a	5
Half mask elastomeric	10
Full face elastomeric	50
Full face powered air purifying respirator	1,000
Full face pressure demand self contained breathing apparatus	10,000

^a N = not resistant to oil R = somewhat oil resistant P = resistant to oil